

Proposal Abstract

Applicant Name: American Land Conservancy

Project Title: Stucky Ridge / Jamison Property Acquisition

Project Description and Benefits to Replacement:

The American Land Conservancy (ALC) holds a purchase option to acquire approximately 295.81 acres of land in the Upper Clark Fork River Basin from Sherri Jamison. The property is located three miles northwest of Anaconda, Deer Lodge County, Montana and abuts the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest to the northwest, north, and east. The property has high public values including providing public access and recreational opportunities, critical winter range habitat for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep and Rocky Mountain elk, rutting and calving habitat for elk, habitat for a variety of other wildlife species including mule deer, intermountain/foothills grasslands, aspen, lodgepole pine, riparian vegetation along the bottom of Levensgood Gulch, and an unnamed perennial spring.

ALC is working in cooperation with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) and will convey the property at the time of closing to FWP. The purchase of the 295.81 acres will occur in two phases. Phase I will close in June of 2008, on approximately 220 acres. The purchase price is \$3,500 per acre (below appraised value). FWP and private donations will fund Phase I at a total cost of \$770,000. Phase II of the project includes the remaining 75.81 acres at \$3,500 per acre for a total of \$265,335. If funding is secured, Phase II will likely close in April of 2009 and be conveyed to state ownership. Funding for the acquisition for Phase II is crucial to completion of the project. ALC requests \$265,335 from the Upper Clark Fork River Basin (UCFRB) Restoration Fund to cover the full amount to complete Phase II of the acquisition.

Phase I of the acquisition, which includes higher elevation critical winter range, is the northern 220-acre portion of the property. (See Map #4 below. Note: acquisition boundaries are not delineated on map as surveys are not yet complete.) Phase II includes the southern 75.81 acres of the property consisting of lower elevation critical winter range and aspen habitat. Both portions of the 295.81-acre property are critical to wildlife. Although funds are secured for Phase I, Phase II may not occur without grant funding. The threat to this property is imminent. The need for an urgent response to the threat of subdivision is what prompted cooperation between the ALC and FWP to bring Sherri Jamison to the negotiating table to secure a purchase option on the property.

The acquisition lies immediately adjacent to the Stucky Ridge damaged area and will replace soil, vegetation, wildlife habitat, and public recreation opportunities lost in the Upper Clark Fork Basin and the Anaconda Uplands from smelter emissions. Additionally, the acquisition helps to maintain wildlife populations in the area that would likely disperse or decline if the property is developed. The property also provides a critical linkage for wildlife as it lies intermediate between the Lost Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA), the Garrity WMA, and the Blue-eyed Nellie WMA.

| 2008 Application | | BUDGET SUMMARY FORM | | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|----------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| EXPENSE CATEGORY | | UCFRB RESTORATION FUND | MATCHING FUNDS | | | TOTAL |
| | | | Cash | In-Kind | Subtotal | |
| 1 | SALARIES AND WAGES | | \$1,960.00 | \$1,080.00 | \$3,040.00 | \$3,040.00 |
| 2 | FRINGE BENEFITS | | \$348.00 | | \$348.00 | \$348.00 |
| 3 | CONTRACTED SERVICES | | \$2,100.00 | | \$2,100.00 | \$2,100.00 |
| 9 | MISCELLANEOUS | \$265,335.00 | | | | \$265,335.00 |
| TOTAL | | \$265,335.00 | \$4,408.00 | \$1,080.00 | \$5,488.00 | \$270,823.00 |

In electronic form this spreadsheet will automatically calculate the expense totals from the Budget Detail Form.